

Progress Made In Aiding Blind Children Of Toledo

In the last issue, we wrote of some of the critical needs of the Toledo area blind children. Foremost on the list were more teachers, more texts, tape recorders, and nursery school training.

It is with great pleasure that we report that gratifying strides are being made around the city and that these needs are coming ever nearer being met.

Since last October, every blind high school student in the Toledo area has been given a tape recorder to aid in his studies. This has been accomplished through the efforts of the Parents of Blind and Visually Handicapped Children. With tape recordings of texts not available in Braille, the blind student can go over his lessons many times without having a parent read and re-read to him.

The Toledo Board of Education has announced that it will conduct a summer seminar for area teachers of visually handicapped. This is a step in the right direction, but only the first. There is yet a long way to go.

The need for more qualified teachers for the visually handicapped youngsters is critical. The Toledo public schools have an excellent program of special classes which is being hampered by the severe shortage of teachers with the special qualifications. We can only hope that this situation improves and that the efforts of the parents of low vision children to encourage teachers to help the blind will meet with success.

Another encouraging report comes from the Toledo Society for Crippled Children. They have expanded their services to include pre-school blind and visually handicapped children. One child has been enrolled and there will be room for several more in the Fall. Again this is just the beginning, but a very important one for every visually handicapped child who wants to go on through the public school system.

Have You Remembered?

Lest you forget . . . and in response to requests for a simple form to be used in remembering The Toledo Society for the Blind so it may stay on the job for area visually handicapped, here are two suggested samples:

1. I give, devise and bequeath to The Toledo Society for the Blind the sum of \$..... (or shares, property, etc.) to be used for such purposes as may be directed by the Society Board of Directors.
2. I give, devise and bequeath to The Toledo Society for the Blind the sum of \$..... (or shares, property, etc.) and that only the income derived therefrom be used for such purposes as may be directed by the Society Board of Directors.

The Crippled Children Society staff has been receiving orientation from Mrs. Jane Leslie, Society for the Blind social worker; Donald Adamschick from the Ohio State School for the Blind; and Rozena Mauk, R.N. from the Ohio Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of Services for the Blind. It is hoped that this brand new program will be able to grow and serve all our young blind.

One area which, like the teacher situation, is still critically in need of further help is the shortage of Braille texts. If a blind child is to grow up, go to school, and learn to live and work in his home town rather than spend several years away at school, he needs texts he can read. Few of the books being used by the school system have been transcribed into Braille.

More and more blind children are attending local elementary and high schools each year. But their success in a regular school is being put into jeopardy by the lack of modern Braille texts. Locally, the sisters at St. Anthony's Villa and the Collingwood Avenue Temple Sisterhood for Services to the Blind are doing most of the transcribing, but cannot meet the ever growing need.

And so we are pleased to note the progress made in the Toledo area for our blind friends. But seeing how far we've come in just a few short months only points up the great distance yet to go. With the continued help of all the friends of the local blind, there will come the day when the visually handicapped will be able to live as nearly normal and productive lives as possible. That is our goal.

A Message From The President

The board of trustees has asked me to publicly thank all of you who have provided financial help to the Society for the Blind through the purchase of our Christmas cards.

This year we will again have three new cards. Samples will be available in July. If you wish, simply place your name and address on the attached postage-paid card and we will send the samples to you so you can make an early selection.

It is our hope that you will use our cards this year to help us in our work with the blind.

As you know, we are supported by the United Appeal, but it is this extra money received from the sale of the cards, and the monies received as voluntary contributions, that permit us to do the many worthwhile projects that make us so highly rated by other similar organizations. We could not do many of these things without your support.

The entire Society for the Blind organization and I thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

John Borlind
For the Board of Trustees

The Toledo Society For The Blind NEWS

A NEWS LETTER TO HELP YOU BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THIS RED FEATHER AGENCY

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1819 Canton Avenue

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BEWARE OF GLAUCOMA, A SNEAK THIEF OF SIGHT

Glaucoma, an eye disease resulting in too much pressure within the eye, is a leading cause of blindness among adults in the United States. One out of every eight blind people is a victim of glaucoma, and practically all of them had normal sight most of their lives. However, sometime during their forties and after, they went blind because glaucoma rarely strikes until after forty. Glaucoma can be helped; it is not hopeless, but YOU have a big share in preventing it. Your best defense against it is by having regular eye examinations at least every two years.

How Glaucoma Destroys Sight

The eyeball is filled with a thick, jelly-like fluid which helps to give it shape. This fluid is constantly being formed and drained off. When something happens to interfere with this drainage, the fluid cannot get out and pressure begins to build up inside the eyeball.

This increasing pressure pushes against the retina and other sensitive nerve fibers which are located throughout the eyeball. Increased pressure on these nerve fibers can destroy them, and a certain amount of sight is lost with each delicate nerve destroyed. The retina, located at the back of the eyeball, receives the light rays entering the eye and sends them on to the brain where the rays are recognized as images. With the destruction of the nerve fibers, the retina is unable to function properly.

At first, the increased fluid pressure damages only those retinal nerve fibers which enable you to see on each side. As a result, side vision is gradually destroyed. In the final stages of the disease, the pressure destroys the nerves which permit front or central vision, and all sight is gone.

The Symptoms Of Glaucoma

Glaucoma is like a 'sneak thief in the night' and can sneak up on you, but you can suspect it by some of these danger signals:

- Glasses, even new ones, don't seem to help.
- Blurred or hazy vision which clears up after a while.
- Trouble in getting used to darkened rooms, such as at the movies.
- Seeing rainbow-colored rings around lights.

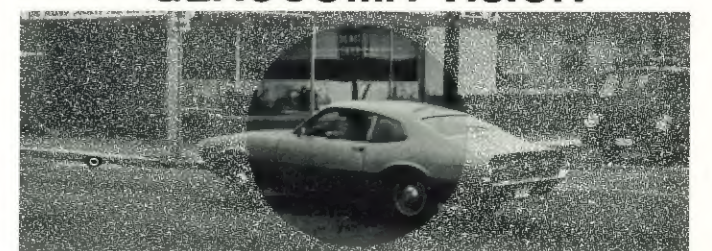
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NORMAL VISION



A person with normal vision sees traffic from all sides without difficulty.

GLAUCOMA VISION



A person with neglected or advanced glaucoma may see only directly ahead.

SOCIETY SUCCESS STORIES . . .

Paul Taraschke is 18 years old and has been totally blind since he was five. He is a quiet, well-mannered young man who comes from a close, happy family. He has always been treated as his other brothers and sisters and has therefore become an independent, responsible boy.

Paul, who lives with his family, attended the School for the Blind in Columbus, Ohio, and graduated in June, 1968. During his years there, he participated in wrestling and was selected to go to the Wrestling Tournament in Aberdeen, South Dakota, in 1967. Through an industrial arts course in school, Paul even learned the use of electric power tools.

By the fall of 1968, Paul still had not found gainful employment, so the Society was contacted for assistance. Paul was accustomed to cane travel, but a program of work adjustment and mobility training was planned in order for him to overcome the natural anxieties about being on one's own.

Paul didn't have any specific goals for vocational or college training, but he was anxious that his future should not be confined to a sheltered workshop situation.



Paul Taraschke

Paul began his training program with the Society, steadily gaining the self-confidence and security so necessary for work adjustment as a handicapped person.

In February of 1969, the Society was contacted by the YMCA who requested information on people who might be interested in masseur-type work. Paul was notified by the Society, and he made the entire arrangements for his interview by himself and was subsequently hired.

To date, Paul's accomplishments and progress at the YMCA are most encouraging. Mr. Dave Revenaugh, Assistant Physical Director, said "Paul is the best masseur we have ever trained here at the Y, and he is doing a great job. He is very well-liked by everyone he is associated with. We just can't say enough good about him. He's doing an outstanding job."



Nobody ever said it was easy—being blind. And nobody knows this better than Felix Bryant. Son of a blind mother and perplexed himself with poor vision since birth, finding jobs was tough. Then the inevitable happened. A car accident, an eye injury, and eventual blindness for Felix too.

Because of a varied work record and the newly added handicap, Felix found it even harder to secure a suitable position.

We're thankful that through the reference of a friend, Felix became acquainted with the Society and began working in the industrial department of the sheltered workshop.

This association with the Society enabled Felix to work in varied capacities and make use of such programs as the talking book machines.

This training enabled Felix to begin searching for a steady, full-time job that he knew he must have to support his family. Like all of us, he wanted to find better financial security through "outside" employment.

It was just a year ago Felix succeeded. Through the Society's placement efforts, he found full-time employment at the Toledo Club where his duties range from making table arrangements, general house-keeping, and helping with the food service.

Being blind still isn't easy, but for Felix, at least, he now has his independence and the daily satisfaction of a job well done. We are very proud Felix came our way.



Felix Bryant

GLAUCOMA . . . cont'd.

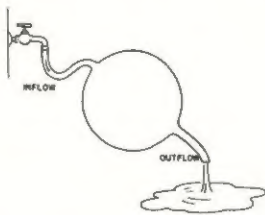
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- Narrowing of vision at the sides of one or both eyes.

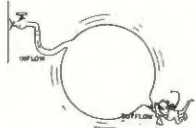
Keep in mind that having any of these symptoms does not necessarily mean a person has glaucoma. They may be caused by some other less serious eye trouble. On the other hand, these symptoms might not even be present, and yet you could have early glaucoma.

How Glaucoma Can Be Prevented

The best defense against glaucoma is an eye examination at least once every two years. If proper medical treatment is started early, the progress of glaucoma can be stopped; but sight already destroyed by glaucoma cannot be restored. Thus for each month that a glaucoma victim postpones treatment, he may lose a small but priceless percentage of his sight. This is the reason why you must have immediate and proper treatment from an eye doctor. Delay—even for a month—may mean that some precious sight will be sacrificed without chance of recovery.



In a normal, healthy eye, fluid drains away at the same rate it is formed.



In an eye with glaucoma something interferes with drainage of the fluid.

SIGNPOSTS

A recent article in THE BLADE's "Zip Line" column gave the Society a welcome bit of free publicity.

Prompted by an inquiry into a local Eye Screening program, Zip Line referred to the Society's program of free eye screening to pre-school children. Every Tuesday from 9:00 to 12:00, volunteers are on duty to screen any child brought into the Society. In 1968 we screened 674 children.

Annual Report on Eye Clinic

The Community Medical Eye Clinic at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center examined 784 visually handicapped persons during 1968.

The clinic is sponsored jointly by the Toledo Society for the Blind and the Lion's Club of Toledo. St. Vincent's provided the facilities for the clinic.

Established by grants from the Lion's Club the clinic was set up to insure regular, complete eye examinations for area blind. Of the 748 persons, 370 received complete ophthalmological exams and the others made clinic visits.



The Community Medical Eye Clinic at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center.

Staffing the clinic were six ophthalmologists who contributed their time and skill to this effort: Dr. A. J. Alter, Dr. J. W. Draheim, Dr. H. P. Drake, Dr. R. D. Kiess, Dr. F. W. Taylor, and Dr. R. L. Willard.

We'd like to express our gratitude to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company veterans who have been donating their time and automobiles providing transportation for eye clinic patients.

Sheltered Workshop

Twenty-two persons have been trained in our Industrial Division. The training can take anything from a week to four months, depending on the individual. Our blind and visually handicapped friends learn such basic skills as punching a time clock, assembly line work, and moving around in a factory-like environment. They are paid for the work they do and leave us better prepared to obtain and hold a job on the outside.



New Talking Book

A modern new lightweight Talking Book is now available through the Society. More compact and easier to handle than older models, the new Talking Book will be easier for blind and handicapped persons to use.

TOURS



The ladies pictured above in our caning department are from the Park Congregational Church. They are one of many groups—up to two or three a week—who visit and tour the Society building.

Women's clubs, school children, and nearly all the nurses-in-training at Toledo hospitals have paid us a visit. Mrs. Frazier is available daily for tours. A call to her at 243-8239 will arrange time for your group or club to make a tour. Come visit us soon.

Government Approval Given "Techniques Of Daily Living"

Plans have been completed with architects and contractors and we are almost ready to proceed with our Techniques of Daily Living room downstairs.

When this department has been installed and staffed, it will be possible for blind persons in Northwestern Ohio to have a total evaluation of their possibilities of employment, mobility and orientation training, and instructions in the techniques of daily living—operating ordinary household equipment and appliances.

The State of Ohio, Department of Public Welfare, Division of Services to the Blind has approved and granted funds to help towards completion of the work. As part of the original agreement, the Society will contribute a stated amount also.

However, during investigations by the architects and contractors, we found that the labor and materials will cost \$6,000 more than had been authorized. The Society Board of Directors will take up this problem at their next meeting. Society Director Lyle Kirk pointed out that contributions, gifts, and legacies are most important to our organization . . . especially in these times of rising costs.

If the board approves and work is begun immediately, the entire program could be put into full use by October 1, 1969, according to Mr. Kirk. When the facility is opened, the Society will have an open house, Mr. Kirk said, and invite the community in to share it with us.

Looking to the future, Mr. Kirk stated that the next step in our development will be a relocation of our dining room and recreation facilities, which we have outgrown.